



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 14, 2003

## **FREE COUNTY SEED MIX SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO PREVENT EROSION**

*Supplies Are Still Available at Five Public Works Road Stations*

The free seed mix being offered to residents affected by the recent wildfires has been specially developed for San Diego County to help prevent erosion in areas around homes that were previously landscaped, County officials said today.

The seed mix, which has been inaccurately referred to as native grass seed mix, contains five kinds of seeds, both native and non-native. Each resident receives one four-pound bag, which will cover .33 acre or one large house lot, and each bag includes seeds for California Poppy, Blue Annual Lupine, African Daisy, Shirley Poppy, and Hykon Rose clover.

"We have worked for the last few years to develop a seed mix appropriate to San Diego County to use for erosion control in landscaped areas," said Bob Eisele, County Watershed Manager.

This seed mix is not to be used where there was previously undisturbed native vegetation. Areas of native vegetation will have plenty of native seeds present that have been activated by the fire. Whenever possible, it is best to allow these native landscapes to grow back from surviving seeds and roots. If residents are concerned about erosion in these previously undisturbed areas they can place straw over the area to help with erosion control. Free straw waddles and straw blankets are also available from the County Road Stations.

Straw waddles, also known as straw rolls, are made of straw wrapped in thin mesh material. They are placed in trenches to deflect water when it runs off of a hillside. Straw blankets are placed on hillsides to protect against rainfall.

The road stations are located at 2914 Tavern Road, Alpine; 116 Fifth St., Ramona; 1524 N. Highway 78, Julian; 28565 Cole Grade Rd., Valley Center, and 13115 Willow Rd., Lakeside. For more information, please call the County Fire Recovery Hotline, (858) 495-5494.

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